

VISIT...

LANZAROTE
Caliente.COM

MARVEL
COMICS

X-MEN

MAY '97 109



EXCALIBUR

VERSUS
SPIRAL



DIRECT EDITION

10911



7 59606 04057 5

\$1.95 US \$2.75 CAN

WELCOME TO THE WORLD'S
FOREMOST CENTER FOR
GENETIC RESEARCH ON
SCOTLAND'S MUIR ISLAND.

THE MAN IN THE CURIOUS
HEADGEAR IS A MUTANT --

-- A PERSON BORN WITH
EXTRAORDINARY POWERS
THAT SET HIM APART FROM
MOST HUMANS.

NAE
LUCK WITH
CEREBRO YET --
EH, HERR
WÄGNER...?

"LUCK!"
Oh JA, Dr.
MacTAGGERT
LOTS.
AND
ALL OF IT
BAD!

KNOWN PUBLICLY
AS NIGHTCRAWLER...

... HE IS THE LEADER OF A
GROUP OF OBT-FEARED
AND HATED HEROES
CALLED...

EXCALIBUR.

BZZT
BZZT
BZZT

BY THE
TIME I GET OUR
MUTANT TRACKING
DEVICE ON-
LINE...

... NOT
ONLY WILL THE
NEXT GENERATION OF
MUTANTS HAVE MISSED
OUT ON THE OPPORTUNITY
TO LEARN TO
CONTROL THEIR
POWERS...

... BUT
SO WILL THEIR
CHILDREN'S
CHILDREN!

YE
SHOULD NAE
BE SO HARD ON
YOURSELF,
KURT.

IT'S
SEEN YE WORK
SIDE-BY-SIDE WITH
SOME OF THE X-MEN'S
BEST TECHNICIANS
WHEN YE WERE
BACK IN THE
STATES.

YE'LL
GET THIS
CYBER-BEASTIE
UP AN' RUNNIN'
IN NO
TIME!

HOPE SO.
INITIATING PRIMARY
DIAGNOSTIC
SEQUENCE...

NEIN!
NEIN!
NEIN!

THE
MAINFRAME
IS FEEDING
BACK!

IT'S
GOING TO
BLOW!

AS SYSTEM
AFTER SYSTEM
MALFUNCTIONS
WITHIN THE
UNSTABLE
CEREBRO...

... NIGHTCRAWLER USES HIS
MUTANT ABILITY TO TELEPORT
THE TWO OF THEM OUT OF
HARM'S WAY...

... IN THE LITERAL
NICK OF TIME!

BA
BOOOM



MEANWHILE, SEVERAL LEVELS BELOW...

I CANNRE BELIEVE AMANDA SEFTON IS GONE! IT'S NARE LIKE HER TEE JUST UP AN' LEAVE LIKE THAT?!

SORCERESSES CAN BE PRETTY FLAKY, RAHNE. WHAT I FIND WEIRD --

FIVE... SIX... SEVEN...

-- IS THAT SHE DIDN'T EVEN SAY GOOD-BYE TO KURT?

DR. KATYA, IT WAS VERY... COLD... OF HER.

HE AND AMANDA HAVE BEEN TOGETHER SINCE OUR EARLIEST DAYS AS X-MEN...

... YET ALL SHE WANTED HIM TO KNOW WAS THAT SHE "HASN'T BEEN HERSELF LATELY" -- WHATEVER THAT MEANS.

I DO NOT LOOK FORWARD TO TELLING KURT. HE WILL BE DEVASTATED.

© LAST ISSUE
POSITION: NATT



BOOM

OH!GOD! DID YOU HEAR THAT EXPLOSION?!

IT CAME FROM THE CEREBRO LAB!

WE MUST GET UPSTAIRS IMMEDIATELY!



ALL ARMORED UP FOR A GOOD OL' "FASTBALL SPECIAL", COLOSSUS?



AND AS NIGHTCRAWLER WOULD SAY --

WOOSH

"-- ALLEZ OOP!"

KITTY'S INTANGIBILITY SHOULD ALLOW HER TO "PHASE" UP TO THE LAB...



"... I ONLY HOPE
WE ARE NOT
TOO LATE!"

JA,
WELL... WIN
SOME --
-- LOSE
SOME.

Och,
BUT I'M SO
SORRY 'BOUT
ALL YUIR HARD
WORK, KURT...

*Alas,
poor Cerebro*
... I OBVIOUSLY DID
NOT KNOW YOU
AS WELL AS I
THOUGHT!

STILL,
I'M NOT
GIVING UP
JUST YET.

I WOULD
NOT ONLY BE
DOING THE WORLD
A DISSERVICE BY
ADMITTING
DEFEAT...

... BUT I
WOULD GO
SO TO THE MAN
TO WHOM I
OWE MY VERY
LIFE --



-- PROFESSOR
CHARLES XAVIER.

SPEAKING OF
"NOT ADMITTING
DEFEAT..."



... HOW GOES THE
SEARCH FOR A CURE
TO THE LEGACY
VIRUS?

AS
YOU SAID,
LAD -- "WIN
SOME... LOSE
SOME."

GUESS
WHICH ONE'S
MORE THAN
THE OTHER?



MOIRA --
YOU'RE
NOT GOING
THROUGH THIS
ALONE...



AREN'T
I?

POOR
WOMAN.

NOW --
MORE THAN EVER --
SHE NEEDS HER LOVED
ONES AROUND HER.



ANYTHING TO
TAKE HER MIND
OFF BEING THE
SOLE NON-
MUTANT
INFECTED BY A
MUTANT-
SPECIFIC
DISEASE...



VAS
IST
DAS...P



GREETINGS,
NIGHTCRAWLER!

LONG
TIME, NO
SEE.

MANY
MONTHS AGO
IT BEEN SINCE
LAST WE
CLASHED --

-- BUT I'M
CERTAIN YOU
REMEMBER
ME...

THE BATTLE FOR
BRITAIN

continuation of
STAN LEE
presents

Dragon Moon Rising

BEN RAAB
Writer

SALVADOR LARROCA
Penciler

SCOTT KOBLISH
Inker

RS & CONICRAFT
Letters

KEVIN TINSLEY
Colors

GRAPHICCOLORWORKS
Separations

MATT IDELSON
Editor

BOB HARRAS
Editor in Chief



MEIN
GOTT --

SPIRAL!

WHAT
ARE YOU DOING
HERE, TIME
DANCER?

AND
WHAT HAVE
YOU DONE WITH
MEGGAN?

ANSWER
ME PLAIN --

-- WITHOUT
YOUR RIDICULOUS
RIDDLING AND
OBFUSCATION, OR
SO HELP ME --



-- I WILL
DISSECT YOU
LIMB FROM
LIMB!

**KTANG
KTANG**

TAKEN TO
SWORDPLAY,
I SEE.

YOU
HANDLE
THE STEEL
WELL.

**KTANG
KTANG**



A PITY
YOUR THREE-
LIMBED
STRIKE --
-- IS STILL
NO MATCH FOR
MY FOUR-ARMED
ASSAULT!



I HAVE DONE
NOTHING TO
YOUR ELFIN
COMPATRIOT,
MISFIT.

HANDLE
THE STRAIN OF
THE TIME DANCE
SHE COULD
NOT.

WHICH
IS EMINENTLY
UNFORTUNATE --



-- FOR I
HAVE NEED
OF YOU ALL
ALIVE...

ARRGH!!



ENERGY --
HOT AS THE
SUN -- SEARING
MY BACK!

BUT
WHO --?

AND IT'S
"EMINENTLY
UNFORTUNATE"
FOR YA THAT I
HAVEN'T HAD ME
DAILY CUP O'
JAVA YET,
SUNSHINE!

'CUZ
THERE AIN'T
NOTHIN' THAT
BOILS ME BILE
MORE --

-- THAN
DEALIN' WITH
SIX-ARMED FREAKS
BEFORE MORNIN'
COFFEE!





MEGGAN!
YOU OKAY,
GIRL?

LIAR...
AM I HOME?

BRIAN!
WHERE IS
HE? WHERE'S
SPARK?



WHOA!
TAKE IT EASY,
LUV.

IF
YER TALKIN'
'BOUT THAT TART
WITH THE EXTRA
ARMS...?

I
THINK PRYDE
WAS ABOUT TO GIVE
HER THE "GRAND
TOUR" OF THE
ISLAND.

COURSE I
HOPE SHE DRDOPS
HER OFF SOME-
WHERE BETWEEN
FLOORS...

BUT AS WISDOM
TRIES TO CALM
DOWN HIS
FRIGHTENED
TEAMMATE...

... HER HYSTERIA IS
ONLY EXACERBATED BY
A MOST UNEXPECTED
SIGHT!



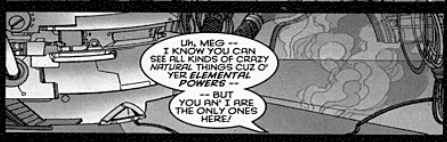
PETER --
LOOK!
DO
YOU SEE THAT
MAN?



"MAN"?

YOUR
BELOVED
O' FAERIE
CHILD...

... IS IN
DANGER MOST
GRAVE!



UH, MEG --
I KNOW YOU CAN
SEE ALL KINDS OF CRAZY
NATURAL THINGS CUZ O'
YER ELEMENTAL
POWERS --

-- BUT
YOU AN' I ARE
THE ONLY ONES
HERE!



BUT
I SAW
HIM!
HE
SPOKE A DIRE
WARNING -- ABOUT
BRIAN!

LET'S GO,
PETER --

-- WE'VE GOT TO
FIND SPIRAL AND
THE OTHERS!

...THEY
OBEY!

FZASH

MAKING SUBCONSCIOUS
CONTACT WITH THE
MOLECULES COMPRISING
THE FLOOR...

...MEGGAN BECKONS
THEM TO PART SO
THAT SHE MAY PASS.

AND MIRACULOUSLY
ENOUGH...

UZZZ --
WOULDN'A
LISTEN
T'ME..?

NEXT
THING YA
KNOW, I'LL
ACTUALLY BE
IMPRESSED
THAT WOLFSPANE'S
PAPER-
TRAINED!

I'LL
NEVER GET
USED T'SEEN
HER DO
THINGS LIKE
THAT.

NEXT
THING YA
KNOW, SHE'S
GONNA CHANGE
HER CRIES
INTO A
COSTUME!

IT'S
LIKE SHE
CAN ACTUALLY
"TALK" THRU'USE
AND MAKE IT
DO WHAT SHE
WANTS!

BAMF

C'MON,
MAN!

DON'T
JUST STAND
THERE -- WE
MUST STOP
SPIRAL!

BLOODY
'ECK!

FUNNY,
BUT I THOUGHT
MEGGAN AND
BRAWNY OL'
BRAIN BRADDOCK
WENT T'ONDON
TOWN T'GET
HITCHED.

IF SHE'S
HERE --

FLUK

© IN COURT
PUBL.

... THEN WHERE ON EARTH IS CAPTAIN BRITAIN?

... WHERE WE FIND OUR MISSING HERO SOMEWHAT WORSE FOR WEAR...

... THANKS TO THE SUPERNATURAL MIGHT OF THE STERN, EMERALD RYIN...

... AND THEIR LEADER, THE SEDUCTIVE ALBINO WITH THE POISONOUS KISS -- RA'AL...

... THE RUDDY, MULTI-APPENDAGED BEHEMOTH -- BFRAR...

... THE DRAGONS OF THE CRIMSON DAWN!

TOO LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE LAST WE SET FOOT ON THE WORLD OF OUR BIRTH, MY FRIENDS.

INDEED IT WAS, AYIN.

YET WHILE MUCH HAS CHANGED SINCE OUR DEPARTURE --

-- THE POWER WITHIN THIS HALLOWED GROUND STILL RESONATES TO THE VERY CORE OF MY BEING AS IT DID CENTURIES AGO!

TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION, WE NOW JOURNEY TO HONG KONG...

AH, BUT WHAT ABOUT THE "POWER" WITHIN THIS LITTLE ONE?

ARE YOU CERTAIN IT IS SUFFICIENT TO LOOSE THE DAWN, RA'AL?

THAT TIME-DANCING WITCH, SPIRAL, COULD HAVE LIED TO US...

THUD





SURGERY
SORRY, CHAPS --

-- BUT
I DON'T
RATHER FANCY
A GO UNDER
ANY KIND OF
KNIFE --

-- PSYCHIC
OR
OTHERWISE!

KRAK

A
FINE SHOW
OF BRAVADO
FOR NOW, OL'
BOY --

-- BUT
THE LONGER
I'M AWAY FROM
ENGLAND --

-- THE
WEAKER
I'M GOING
TO GET! --

● BARAK'S POWERS
ARE CONNECTED
TO KING AND
PATT



O-HO! A
WELL-STRUCK
BLOW,
HUMAN --

-- BUT
I STILL OWE
YOU FOR
OUR LAST
TUSSEL! ●



AND
WHEN MIGHTY
BARAK COMES TO
CLAIM A DEBT IN
BATTLE --

-- YOU
WILL PAY IN
BLOOD!



WHOW!

CAN'T
TAKE THIS
PUNISHMENT...
MUCH
LONGER.



JUST NEED TO...
LIVE LONG ENOUGH...
TO FIND OUT...

... WHAT
HAPPENED TO...
MEGGAN.

"WE WERE ABOUT TO BE UNOFFICIALLY WED..."

BRIAN --
AIEEE!

"... WHEN SOME MYSTERIOUS ENERGIES YANKED MEGGAN OUT THE JEWELRY STORE WINDOW!"

"I IMMEDIATELY ASSUMED THE EVER-DISSEMBLING SPIRAL WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ASSAULT ON MY BRIDE-TO-BE."

"ASTONISHINGLY -- SHE WASN'T."

"RATHER, THREE DEMONS FROM THE CRIMSON DAWN --"

"... THE MYSTICAL FORCE RESPONSIBLE FOR SAVING THE LIFE OF MY TWIN SISTER BETSY -- THE X-MAN, PSYLOCKE..."

"... HAD CROSSED OVER INTO THIS WORLD, SEEKING A POWER SOURCE TO SHATTER THE BARRIER BETWEEN OUR REALITY AND THEIRS."

REJOICE, BRIAN BRADDOCK! YOU GAVE UPON THE GLORIOUS FACE OF YOUR DESTINY!

© 2006 MARVEL
206 MATT

"GUESS WHO THAT 'SOURCE' JUST SO HAPPENED TO BE."

BARAK DELIVERS A KILLING BLOW, YET YOU STILL STAND? IMPRESSIVE.

PERHAPS THEN YOU'LL SWOON FROM THE TASTE OF MY TOXIC KISS, INSTEAD.

SPLORCH

GAAAH!

HER CORROSIVE BLE -- BURNING MY FLESH!

Ughhrrh...

HIS
EFFORTS WERE
VALIANT -- BUT
FUTILE AT BEST,
MISTRESS.

TRUE --
BUT I FIND HIS
RESILIENCE
QUITE...
STIMULATING.

IN YOU, WE
HAVE CLEARLY
CHOSEN OUR
AVATAR WISELY,
BRADDOCK.

THE TIME-
WITCH PROMISED
TO DELIVER US A
POWER EVEN GREATER
THAN THAT OF OUR NEW
"SOUL SISTER" -- YOUR
OWN TWIN SIBLING,
BETSY.

AND
SO NOW
WE HAVE
YOU.

I
SUGGEST
YOU REMAIN
STILL. THOUGH
IT IS RELATIVELY
PAINLESS FOR ME
TO ENTER YOUR
MIND...

...ONCE I
HAVE BEGUN
TO PROBE YOUR
ESSENCE WITH
MY PSIONIC
NEEDLES --

-- IT WILL
DEFINITELY
HURT!

IN THE BRIEF TIME SINCE
HE BECAME THE LIVING
EMBODIMENT OF A
NATION'S STRENGTH...

...CAPTAIN BRITAIN HAS
ENDURED MORE PHYSICAL,
PSYCHOLOGICAL, AND
EMOTIONAL PAIN THAN
MOST PEOPLE EXPERIENCE
IN A LIFETIME.

YET HE WOULD
GLADLY RELIVE
ANY AND ALL
OF IT AGAIN...

-- SO THAT HE
WOULDN'T HAVE TO
ENDURE THIS
PARTICULAR AGONY
A SECOND LONGER.

BUT IF HE IS EVER
TO SEE HIS BELOVED
MEGGAN AGAIN,
ENDURE HE MUST...

Noooo!

ARRGGH!

... ASSUMING
HE CAN!

FLASH

SIX ARMS I
NEED TO CAST
SOME SPELLS,
WOLF-GIRL --

-- NOT
ALL!

BAMF

ENOUGH!

MOVE
SO MUCH AS AN
INCH --

-- EVEN
THINK ABOUT
BLINKING --

-- AND
YOUR CORPULENT
MASTER, MOJO, IS
GOING TO NEED A
NEW SECOND-IN-
COMMAND...

I AM
HERE FOR
MORE DIRE
REASONS.
REASONS
THAT MAY DESTROY
NOT ONLY ME...

-- BUT
ONE OF YOUR
OWN!

IS
THAT NOT
TRUE, FRERIE
CHILD?

I NO
LONGER SERVE
THAT BLOATED SACK
OF PROTOPLASM AND HIS
INFANE QUEST FOR HIGHER
RATINGS AND PUBLIC
ADORATION.

BACK AT MUIR
ISLAND...

SCOPE
THIS,
GUYS!

YOU'RE
NOT GONNA
BELIEVE WHAT THE
SHADOWS' DRAGGED
IN!

LIKE
ANYONE COULD
FORGET THESE
TACKY EIGHTIES
BOOTS...

NO,
YOU FOOLS!
TO HELP
YOU, I AM
HERE!

SPRAL!

YOU
SET THE
VILLAIN UP,
KATYA ---

--- AND
COLOSSUS
SHALL GLADLY
KNOCK HER
DOWN!

WAK

GARRY!

SMASH

LIAR! WE
KNOW YE FOR A TWO-
FACED SPALLEN,
WITCH!

AND
YE'LL NAE BE
CASTIN' NONE O' YUIR
TWISTY-TURNY SPELLS
SO LONG AS I'VE
GOT HOLD O' YUIR
HANDS!



SOMETHING
AWFUL'S HAPPENED
TO BRIAN, EVERYONE!
HE'S IN TERRIBLE
DANGER...

... AND
SPIRAL'S HERE
TO HELP US GET
HIM OUT OF
IT!



MEG,
NOT A SINGLE
DICTIONARY IN THE
WORLD *DOESN'T* HAVE A
PICTURE OF SPIRAL NEXT
TO THE DEFINITION
OF THE WORD
"EVIL"...

... OR
"DUPLICITOUS" ...
OR "DISHONEST" ...



NO,
KITTY -- YOU'RE
WRONG! SHE
WASN'T THE ONE
WHO ATTACKED
US!

IT WAS THE
DRAGONS!

"DRAGONS"?

LONDON'S
TUBE MAY
LOOK LIKE GIANT
SERPENTS,
MEGGAN,
BUT --



SHE *JESTS*
NOT, MISFIT.
POWERFUL
BEINGS HAVE
CLAIMED YOUR
COMRADE.

HIS LIFE
IS FORFEIT
LEST YOU
COME WITH
ME.

SO, ASK
YOURSELF --

-- CAN
YOU REALLY
AFFORD TO TAKE
THE CHANCE
THAT I AM
LYING?

...
TELL ME
MORE.



AS DO ALL
GREAT TALES,
SO DID THIS ONE
BEGIN ON THE ENDLESS
MYSTICAL PATH
KNOWN AS THE
WILDBAYS...



"THERE -- AWAY FROM
MOJO, AWAY FROM
THE LIFE I ONCE
KNEW -- COULD I
BE FREE.

"AND SO I THOUGHT
IT WOULD BE FOR
ALL ETERNITY.



"I WAS
WRONG.



"THE DRAGONS CLAIMED
TO HAVE JOURNEYED
FROM A PLACE KNOWN AS
THE CRIMSON DAWN --

"-- A PLACE WHERE
MAGIC FAR MORE
POWERFUL THAN EVEN
MY OWN HELP SWAY
OVER ITS UNFORTUNATE
DENIZENS.

"BESEECHED ME MY
AID, THEY DID, BUT
WHEN I REFUSED --

"-- THEY MADE PLAIN A SIGHT
MORE HORRIFYING THAN
ANY OF MY BODY-SHOPPE
CONJURINGS!



"T'WAS A
GROTESQUE
SO INHUMAN,
EVEN I HAD
TO AVERT MY
EYES.

"SUCH A FATE
AWAITED ME IF
I DIDN'T HELP
THEM ESCAPE
INTO THIS
WORLD. THEY
SWORE."



UNWILLING
TO SUFFER SO,
I ACCEPTED THEIR
CULT'S BRANDING,
AND DID AS THEY
ASKED --

-- ASSUMING
MY SUPERIOR WITS
WOULD ALLOW ME
TO OUTSMART
THEM AT ONE
POINT.

ONCE
AGAIN, I WAS
WRONG.

THIS, NOT ONLY
HAVE I SEALED
MY OWN
FATE --

-- BUT THAT
OF CAPTAIN
BRITAIN, AS
WELL.

PIOTR,
HAVE YOU EVER
KNOWN SPIRAL
NOT TO HAVE
A HOOKER
AGENDA?

MYST,
BUT BEHIND
EVERY ONE OF
HER LIES --
-- THERE IS
OFTEN AN
ELEMENT OF
TRUTH.

MEGGAN,
I REALIZE THIS
IS DIFFICULT,
BUT --

OH,
KURT --
CAN'T WE AT
LEAST TRY
TO TRUST
HER?

FOR BRIAN'S
SAKE,
PLEASE...
WE WERE
TO BE
MARRIED...

Uh, Ja...
MARRIED.

IF THERE IS ANYONE PRESENT WHO CAN
THINK OF A REASON WHY WE SHOULD NOT
HAVE OUR HEADS EXAMINED
FOR TRUSTING
SPIRAL...

... MAY YOU
SPEAK NOW OR
FOREVER HOLD YOUR PEACE.

--SNIFF--
I ALWAYS CRY AT
WEDDINGS.

THEN BY
THE POWER
VESTED IN ME AS
EXCALIBUR'S TEAM
LEADER --

-- I
PRONOUNCE
THIS MISSION
A "GO"!



YOU'LL
SEE.

AS THE CORUSCATING ENERGY
OF SPIRAL'S LUMINESCENT
TELEPORTATION COCOON
ENVELOPS THEM...

...WHISKING THEM TO
SOMEPLACE OTHER
THAN HERE...

...MOST MEMBERS OF EXCALIBUR
CAN'T SUPPRESS THE CONCERN
THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE JUST
MADE THE WORST MISTAKE OF
THEIR LIVES.

BUT LITTLE
DO THEY
REALIZE...

...THEY
ARE NOT
ALONE.

TO BE
CONCLUDED!

Dear *Swordstrokes*,

I have never written to you before, but I feel that it is high time that I do. To begin with, I have every issue of EXCALIBUR and I must say that I am really enjoying the book's current direction. I do, however, have one major complaint: Colossus! From his first appearance with the X-Men, he has been my all-time favorite character. Please, give the guy a break. Who more than he embodies Xavier's dream, and who has experienced more loss than he has? When I saw him defect to Magneto, I was furious, because I knew it was totally out of character for him. Then, when I heard that he would be coming to EXCALIBUR, I was overjoyed. I thought that he would finally be reunited and reconciled with his beloved Katya. Of course Pete Wisdom threw a major kink into that, but I was still hopeful. I see now that there seems to be no chance for Kitty and Piotr to get "back together," so please, please, please bring a new love interest into Piotr's life. After all that he has been through, he deserves a little happiness. And please don't ever kill him off or let him fade into obscurity. EXCALIBUR now has in its lineup one of the most powerful mutants on the planet, don't waste him. Overall, I love what you are doing with this book and these characters, but please, let's see them in action more. After all, EXCALIBUR has one of the most if not the most powerful line-ups of all the X-teams. Let's see what they can do! So keep up the great work! I love what you've done so far.

So until Colossus rusts or Rahne gets fleas, MAKE MINE MARVEL!

And P.S. — a new love for Colossus, he deserves it!!! Pleeeeeease?!

Derek Fisher
Bellville, OH

Well, it's pretty evident that you love Colossus, Derek,

and with good reason: he's a great guy! However, the big lug has had some tough breaks lately, more than anyone deserves. Still, Piotr's iron hide is only an outer expression of his inner strength, and with the friends he has in EXCALIBUR, he can only have the best of luck in the future. At least, we hope so. You can never tell what's going to happen with this group of mutants. And as for a new love interest for the tin man, Piotr may not have to look very far from home...

Dear *Swordstrokes*,

I've been meaning to write for awhile now to comment on what I can't help thinking is the major flaw in EXCALIBUR: namely your treatment of Brian Braddock. Captain Britain has long been my favorite Marvel character (hardly surprising, since he was originally created specifically to give British Marvelites in the 70s — my generation — a hero they could call their own), and having waited several years for him to be accepted into the mainstream Marvel Universe, I was delighted when this book first came along. Most people regarded it as another X-book; I regarded it as Brian's book, and saw Kitty, Kurt, and Rachel simply as fairly interesting supporting characters. Gradually, that opinion changed as I began to develop a greater appreciation for our multinational mutants, but it was still Brian who kept me coming back each month.

Since Alan Davis left, that's changed. It seems that since EXCALIBUR became more a part of the X-Men's world, no one has really known what to do with Brian. First, he was dumped in limbo for months. Then, he was stripped of the Captain Britain name (which I personally found rather insulting — how would you like it if a British creative team got hold of Steve Rogers and gave him some meaningless, generic name?). That was

when I gave up on this title.

I came aboard again with issue #100, principally because I saw the Captain back in uniform again, but he's still being mishandled — or at least being handled like a completely different character. Take his speech patterns, for instance: Brian is not an aristocrat, but he is from a fairly well-off, upper middle class family. Why does he continually pepper his speech with pseudo-cockney terminology? He shouldn't even refer to people as 'mate', as he has done recently. I would expect that from Wisdom, who sounds like a Londoner, but Brian was raised in the home counties. Also, why does no one seem to have any regard for his past continuity? The recent flashback sequence with Captain America is a good example of what I mean. Brian has fought alongside Cap on several occasions — not once as he states here — and while the flashback scene shows the two captains fighting agents of the Red Skull, he's wearing a miscoloured version of the second Captain Britain suit, where he should be wearing the original.

I realize these are minor points, and I must sound rather pedantic, but some of us genuinely care about Brian and want to see him handled right. Please, either put Captain Britain back where the action is and try to flesh his character out a bit, or write him out so that at some time in the future, a writer who cares about him can restore him to his former glory. At the moment, I don't care which — although a book titled EXCALIBUR with no prominent English characters doesn't make much sense, and Wisdom is really no substitute for Britain's premier superhero. How about it?

Tony Ingram
Anerley, London
ENGLAND

It's nice to see that you've taken such a great interest in Brian Braddock as a prominent member of EXCALIBUR, Tony! As you can see from this issue and the last, Brian is getting

EDITOR

MATT
IDELSON

ASSISTANT

PAUL
TUTANE

CHIEF

BOB
HARRIS

quite a bit of the spotlight. He might not exactly be having the time of his life, but he's getting a chance to show the Dragons of the Crimson Dawn exactly what he's made of. We apologize for some of the gaffs that crept into our recent issues. We think we've got all our cylinders running now, and we hope you can learn to love the rest of the team just as much, because they're a huge part of Brian's life, and they're here to stay!

Dear *Swordstrokes*,

Whoa! Way to go! Your great art and storylines drew me to you. I have now permanently stopped buying X-Men. I mean, don't get me wrong, I still buy them (they're great), but I don't buy them on a regular basis anymore. I used to collect them, but I got into *major* trouble with the parents and they threw away *all* of my comics. Luckily, I found a savior: EXCALIBUR. When I bought my first EXCALIBUR, I thought it was going to be a major waste of money. I was wrong. *Real* wrong. If I remember correctly, the first EXCALIBUR comic I bought was #101. I was drawn to the series by Douglock. He is my favorite character. I guess it's his awareness, I don't know. To close this letter, I'm going to ask a few questions.

- 1) In which comic and which issue did Douglas Ramsey die?
 - 2) What happened to Rachel?
 - 3) In which issue did Nightcrawler change his costume?
- Well, thanks for listening. See ya in thirty!

Sam Lowe
Clinton, TN

We're glad EXCALIBUR could be your "saving grace," Sam. Douglock sure is an interesting character, isn't he? Hopefully, you'll be intrigued by what's going to be happening to his teammates after the conclusion to the Crimson Dawn storyline. Be prepared: you're going to have to be able to keep track of quite a few story threads! But enough about that. It's time for some answers:

- 1) Doug Ramsey died in NEW MUTANTS #60 as a result of his valiant effort to save the life of his good friend and teammate, Rahne Sinclair, a.k.a. EXCALIBUR's very own Wolfsbane.
- 2) Rachel Summers is currently residing in what may be an alternate future. She's now known as Mother Askani, the founder of the sisterhood that helped mold baby Nathan Summers into the man called Cable.
- 3) Nightcrawler got his new duds back in EXCALIBUR #98. Like 'em?

Dear *Swordstrokes*,

I must say, EXCALIBUR gets more interesting every issue. Kurt's new look

is wonderful! And his attitude was a stroke of genius! So, what's going on between Amanda and Kurt, anyways?! Really! Getting pretty friendly, aren't they? Which reminds me, I just can't wait till issue #107!! agree with Marissa, they should get married. Here are a few questions:

- 1) When does Pete get his code name?
- 2) What's going on inside Moira with the Legacy Virus?
- 3) What happened to Amanda Sefton? She sure hasn't been around much, has she?
- 4) When is Lockheed going to be a proven part of the team? He hasn't been included in too many of these latest issues.

So, until Pete buys a better looking jacket, Make Mine Marvel!!!

Meagan Falger
Mesquite, TX 75149

Kurt and Amanda have quite a history together, Meagan, and they've got a lot in common! They've had an on-again/off-again relationship since Nightcrawler's earliest days as an X-Man. (Check out EXCALIBUR # Minus 1 for more on Kurt and Amanda's past together!) Now for some answers:

- 1) Pete? A code name? Pete Wisdom?! Yeah, right. You try to find one he'd settle for.
- 2) Moira's got quite a bit going on inside her with the Legacy Virus, and none of it's good. We'll just have to wait and see if she can find a cure before the deadly disease takes its final toll.
- 3) Well, Amanda's kind of... gone... for now. Sorry, but don't count on on hearing wedding bells for her and Kurt anytime soon.
- 4) Our friendly neighborhood dragon's already proven himself a part of EXCALIBUR. It's just that he's been keeping himself pretty busy lately, so he hasn't really had a chance to hang out with the team much. Actually, his life will be getting a bit... shall we say, complicated... in the near future.

Dear *Excalibur* Folks,

I just recently completed my collection of EXCALIBUR back issues, and was rereading my entire collection in order from the beginning for the first time when a question popped up in my mind: how old is Kitty Pryde?

When she was introduced in UNCANNY X-MEN #129, it said she was "thirteen, going on fourteen." Then, in UNCANNY X-MEN #196, she refers to herself as "a fifteen-year-old girl." THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE also refers to her as a fifteen-year-old. However, in EXCALIBUR #24, which came out several years later (in our time), she celebrated her fifteenth

birthday. This was clarified in the letters page of EXCALIBUR #34, where it was explained that when she had earlier described herself as being fifteen, she was rounding up her age, and EXCALIBUR #24 was when she actually turned fifteen. Thus, from January 1980 to July 1990 (our time), less than two years had passed in the Marvel Universe.

Then, in EXCALIBUR #63, Kylon says that "little over a year has passed here, while I spent over twenty years on Ee'Rath." Since he was sent to Ee'Rath by Widget in EXCALIBUR #2, shortly after the team first formed, this means that a year or less had gone by from Kitty's birthday in issue #25 to Alan Davis' departure in issue #67.

I have no clue as to how much time passed between then and now, but a year in Marvel time seems to equal roughly four to six years in our time, judging from the information I alluded to earlier. Thus, I would estimate that our merry mutants have somewhere within eight to eighteen months. This would make Kitty around sixteen or seventeen. Since in EXCALIBUR #89 it was stated that Kitty and Pete Wisdom were roughly ten years apart in age, this puts Pete in his late twenties.

This can't be right. Either a disproportionately large amount of time has passed since Alan Davis left as compared to before and during his tenure on EXCALIBUR, or it is perfectly acceptable in the Marvel Universe for a twenty-something man to date an underage girl. Or perhaps I made an error in my calculations.

Perhaps you can explain it to me. Exactly how old is Kitty Pryde?

Ross Eron Thompson
Sequin, TX

Wow, Ross! You certainly did your research! Kitty's age has long been a matter of great debate. We think she's a mature girl in her late teens, and she & Wisdom are kind of like Princess Leia and Han Solo, wouldn't you say? At any rate, we're looking up the definitive Kitty's age story. When it's ready, we'll print it!

NEXT MONTH

WELL, WE'RE
THROWING YOU
A CURVE
NEXT MONTH.

WILL YOU
LOVE US,
OR HATE US?!

ONLY TIME
WILL TELL.